[Translation]

Foreign Nationals without Visas

*200. SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of foreign nationals arrested, without having visas, during 1994-95 and 1995-96 till date, Statewise;

(b) whether the Government propose to send them back to their countries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) to (c). Passport (Entry into India) Act/Rules provide that all foreign nationals except the nationals of Nepal, Bhutan and Maldives must be in possession of valid visa before they are allowed to enter India through authorised immigration checkposts. Powers under the passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920 and the Foreigners Act, 1946 to detect and deport foreign nationals residing in India illegally have been entrusted to the State Governments/UT Administrations with their prior consent in 1958. Central Government is aware of the problem of illegal infiltrators and has from time to time sensitised the State Governments and UT Administrations and have requested them to launch special drives to identify, detect and deport the foreign nationals staying in India illegally. The data regarding such arrests and deportations is maintained by the State Governments concerned.

Obsolete Records at Railway Stations

1437. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether he has received letters in June, 1996 regarding obsolete unimportant records lying at the railway stations/offices;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to weed them out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Two letters one each from Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar, MP and Shri Shashi Prakash, ex. MP, suggesting that reservation slips/charts and other registers except those pertaining to accident should be kept only for a period of one month have been received.

(c) As per the extant instructions all records pertaining to reservation, are preserved for six months. In those cases where action is under process, these are preserved till the finalisation of the case. The preservation of these records for six months is considered necessary to deal with complaints received from travelling public regarding reservations etc., cases of refunds, verification of leave travel concession, military warrants etc.

Bhopal Gas Tragedy

1438. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of claims regarding Union Carbide Gas for payment of compensation presented and settled till May, 1996;

(b) the number of courts set up for the settlement of such claims, the number of wards where courts have not been set up so far and the reasons for not setting up courts;

(c) the number of claim cases whose appeals are pending in the courts and since when, separately; and

(d) the time by which these are likely to be settled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SHEES RAM OLA) : (a) to (d). Out of 4,94,313 claim cases registered, 3,17,274 cases were disposed of till May, 1996 by the 44 Courts which were set up. Courts in 12 wards could not be set up because of the non availability of suitable presiding officers. Appeals relating to 3,388 compensation claims are pending in the Appellate Courts. Adjudication in the Appellate Courts is taken up in accordance with the provisions of the Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster (processing of Claims) Act, 1985 and this is an on-going process.

[English]

Railway Station at Pokhran

1439. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had received representations from the citizens of Pokhran, Jaisalmer town and surrounding areas to restore back the Railway Station at Pokhran;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Representation has been received for restoring the rail link to old Pokhran station.

(c) The viability of the project is under examination by Northern Railway.